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(b) contacting the sample with an OmpC antigen, or reactive fragment thereof, under conditions suitable to form a complex of the OmpC antigen, or reactive fragment thereof, and IgA antibody to the OmpC antigen;

(c) contacting said complex with an anti-IgA antibody to form a labeled complex; and

(d) detecting said labeled complex, thereby determining the presence or absence of IgA anti-OmpC antibodies, where the presence of said IgA anti-OmpC antibodies in said subject indicates that said subject has Crohn's disease.

b1  
cont

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**REMARKS**

Claims 1 to 13 are pending, with claims 8 to 13 having been withdrawn from examination. Claim 2 has been amended. Claims 1 to 7 are presently under examination.

Applicants' representatives very much appreciate the Examiner's time and helpful comments in the telephone interview conducted July 30, 2002. During the interview, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Braun et al. was discussed. Specifically, Applicants' representatives explained that the Braun et al. patent does not teach diagnosis of Crohn's disease. The Examiner indicated that the arguments made by Applicants' representatives would be considered when presented in a written response. In addition, the Examiner indicated that she would consider rejoining withdrawn claims 8 to 11, as claims 1 to 11